

EXPANDABLE HOME ENTERTAINMENT CABINET

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. An adjustable home entertainment cabinet assembly for enclosing television sets of different sizes, comprising:

a pair of spaced tower cabinets having tops, the tower cabinets having spaced, opposed inner sides and being movable between minimum and maximum spacing so as to position the inner sides adjacent the outer sides of television sets of different sizes;

a bridge assembly extending between the tops of the cabinets, the bridge assembly including:

a center section extending between the cabinets, the center section comprising an upper support member having opposite ends that rest on the tops of the cabinets and are supported thereby, the length of the support member being such that the ends of the support member are supported on the tops of the cabinets when the cabinets are spaced apart by a desired spacing between minimum and maximum limits;

the center section further comprising a bookshelf mounted on an underside of the upper support member and extending downwardly therefrom between the cabinets, the bookshelf including laterally spaced end panels and at least one bottom panel extending between the end panels; and

a pair of end sections movably mounted on the center section and extending downwardly from the upper support member so as to cover gaps between the bookshelf end panels and the inner sides of the tower cabinets, the end sections being mounted for relative lateral movement on the upper support member so that the end sections can be positioned next to the inner

sides of the cabinet for a full range of cabinet spacing between the minimum and maximum cabinet spacing.

2. A home entertainment cabinet assembly as in claim 1 wherein:

the center section comprises cornice molding thereon that matches and is aligned with cornice molding on the tops of the tower cabinets; and

the end sections each comprise a decorative front panel having cornice molding at an upper edge that matches and overlays the cornice molding on the front panel and tower cabinets.

3. A home entertainment cabinet assembly as in claim 2 wherein the end sections further include a generally horizontal bottom panel that extends rearwardly from a lower portion of the front panel and a generally vertical rear panel extending upwardly from an end of the bottom panel adjacent the tower cabinet, the end section bottom panel fitting under the center section bottom panel as the end section is moved inwardly over the center section bookshelf.

4. A home entertainment cabinet assembly as in claim 1 wherein the upper support member of the bridge assembly includes one or more elongated reinforcement ribs mounted on an upper support panel to restrict vertical deflection or sagging of the support panel.

5. A home entertainment cabinet assembly as in claim 1 wherein the upper support member includes recesses in one or more edges that engage protruding cleats on the tower cabinets to prevent the upper support member from sliding off the tower cabinet.

6. A home entertainment cabinet assembly as in claim 1 and further including means for limiting the distance the upper support member can slide toward and away from the tower cabinets, said means preventing the upper support member from sliding off the top of the tower cabinet.

7. A home entertainment cabinet assembly as in claim 1 wherein the cabinet includes lights mounted on the tops of the tower cabinets and upper support member and directing illumination downwardly therefrom, the upper support member including recessed portions that permit the upper support member to slide outwardly over the lights on the tops of the tower cabinets.

8. A home entertainment cabinet assembly as in claim 7 wherein the lights are actuated together by means of an electronic touch switch incorporated in a hinge of a door on a tower cabinet, such that the lights can be turned on and off by touching the hinge.

9. A home entertainment cabinet assembly as in claim 1 wherein:
the tower cabinets have cornice molding at a front top edge thereof;
the center section has cornice molding at a front edge thereof that matches and is aligned with the cornice molding on the tower cabinets; and
the end sections have cornice molding on a top edge thereof that matches and overlays the cornice molding on the tower cabinets and center section, the cornice molding on the end sections covering the gaps between the cornice molding on the tower cabinets and the center section for the range of movement of the tower cabinets between the minimum and maximum spacing.

10. A home entertainment cabinet assembly as in claim 9 and further comprising a gap reduction adjustment device that urges the cornice molding on the end sections into a close fitting relationship with the cornice molding on the tower cabinets, a back side of the cornice molding on the end sections being formed with the contour of a front side of the cornice molding on the tower cabinets so they fit together closely with minimum gaps.

11. An adjustable home entertainment cabinet assembly for enclosing television sets of different sizes, comprising:

a pair of spaced tower cabinets having tops and having trim molding at the tops, the tower cabinets having spaced, opposed inner sides and being movable between minimum and maximum spacing so as to position the inner sides adjacent the outer sides of television sets of different sizes;

a bridge assembly extending between the tops of the cabinets, the bridge assembly including:

a center section extending between the cabinets, the center section comprising an upper support member having opposite ends that rest on the tops of the cabinets and are supported thereby, the length of the support member being such that the ends of the support member are supported on the tops of the cabinets when the cabinets are spaced apart by a desired spacing between minimum and maximum limits;

the center section further comprising trim molding on a front edge thereof that matches and aligns with the trim molding on the tower cabinets; and

a pair of end sections movably mounted on the center section and extending downwardly from the upper support member so as to cover the junction between the center section and the inner sides of the tower cabinets, the end sections being mounted for relative lateral

movement on the upper support member so that the end sections can be positioned next to the inner sides of the cabinet for a full range of cabinet spacing between the minimum and maximum cabinet spacing, the end members including trim molding at an upper edge thereof that matches and overlays the trim molding on the tower cabinets and center section.

12. A home entertainment cabinet assembly as in claim 11, wherein the cabinet assembly includes at least one member from the group consisting of combination free standing television stands and storage cabinets of different widths for different sizes of table model television sets or monitors, with each television stand and storage cabinet having the same furniture appearance as the tower cabinets and having flat sides that mate with flat inner sides of the tower cabinets so as to create the impression of an integral item of furniture instead of separable furniture components.

13. A media storage drawer for storing home entertainment media, the media drawer comprising a bottom, an upper surface of which is covered at least partially with one of a hook and loop fabric, the media drawer further comprising a plurality of movable dividers for subdividing the space in the drawer, the divider having bottom engaging edges covered at least partially with the other of a hook and loop fabric, the dividers being releasably attachable to the bottom at desired locations by engagement of the one and other hook and loop fabrics, the location of the dividers being adjustable as needed for storing different types and sizes of media, the dividers being constructed such that the dividers stand on their edge when attached to the bottom of the drawer.

14. A media storage drawer as in claim 13 wherein at least some dividers are installed in parallel rows that permit media in the form of one or more of audio tapes, video tapes, CD's, and

DVD's to be stored on their edges in a row between the partitions, the media drawer further comprising a backer rail having the other of a hook and loop fabric on a lower side thereof, the backer rail being releasably mounted on the bottom of the drawer at the end of a row of media in order to support the media in an upright position on their edges.